

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 2C

WASHINGTON TIMES
1 July 1983

COMMENTARY

LEE MARTIN

The good folks who blew the bugles and unrolled the red carpet for Hanoi's conquest of Indochina are at it again, bringing their new roadshow to the nation's capital tomorrow.

Under the tongue-tripping *nom de guerre* of "Ad Hoc Committee for July 2 Emergency Mobilization," the erstwhile Trotskyite Workers World party is promoting a rally near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and a demonstration march to the Shoreham Hotel to stop U.S. aid to El Salvador, get the U.S. military out of Puerto Rico (sic!) and Panama, to end racism, sexism and lesbian/gay oppression at home — among other stimulating issues. Politics makes strange bedfellows.

Of course, self-respecting political and popular personalities would find it awkward to associate themselves with a media event organized and sponsored by the reprobate American heirs of Leon Trotsky's Fourth International. So the organizers have followed the time-proven Trotskyite tactic of creating a front-in-front-of-a-front.

Thus, the two established WWP fronts which share the same facilities at 19 W. 21st St. in New York — the "People's Anti-War Mobilization" and the "All People's Congress" — launched the so-called "Ad Hoc Committee for July 2 Emergency Mobilization." Now, along with such endorsers as Dykes Against Racism Everywhere, radical lawyer William Kunstler, folk-singer Harry Belafonte, and officers and chapters of the Soviet-front National Lawyers Guild, we find such prominent congressmen as Parren Mitchell, Ron Dellums, John Conyers, George Crockett, Gus Savage and Mickey Leland — all Democrats.

Lending an air of extra-respectability, the organizers have been provided headquarters at the Woodrow Wilson Center, 14th and Irving Sts. NW, a property of the prestigious National Capital Union Presbytery. Local Presbyterians

Lee E. Martin is a retired U.S. government foreign affairs analyst, an ordained ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church, and a commissioner to the National Capital Union Presbytery.

A new roadshow in town

are not aware of this, to be sure, because the Presbytery long ago leased the premises at \$1 a year to the independent, nonprofit, "Woodrow Wilson International Center Inc.," whose board alone determines the use of the facilities.

What better place to house an "anti-war" activity than a nominal church facility! Gathered round

"The organizers have followed the time-proven Trotskyite tactic of creating a front-in-front-of-a-front."

the altar of petulant professional protest we can expect to find such other prominent veterans of the old anti-Vietnam campaign as the irrepressible Berrigan brothers, the dapper Dave Dellinger, the always angry Deirdre Griswold and the ever-beguiling Gloria Steinem, all backers of the July 2 Mobilization.

The least we can expect from this reunion of the old crowd is familiar demagoguery played to the pandering TV news groupies for a 90-second spot at 6 and 11, ending with that lilting tagline: "This is Bridget Bravo, TV Zero, at Lafayette Park." At the worst, the District should be prepared for a re-enactment of the events of last Nov. 27, when a so-called counter-KKK demonstration was staged by the APC at McPherson Square and proceeded, with professional incitement, to trash building fronts and businesses along Vermont Avenue and 14th and K Streets.

The National Park Service is granting the organizers, upon application of the PAM, permission to rally tomorrow at Constitution

Gardens, and Lafayette Park and on the White House sidewalk. Tourists visiting their capital on this Fourth of July weekend, thus, will be confronted by a rude surprise — and a gratuitous insult. Only in the land of the free!

But how many more thousands of Americans will be treated to unsolicited telecasts of free propaganda for an organization of Marxist revolutionaries who are dedicated to undermining everything that our national holiday symbolizes?

If, however, it is ever possible to expose invidious propaganda events for what they are, the fundamental problem remains of how truly concerned individuals and groups — especially those from the nation's churches — shall develop an informed commitment to peace, with freedom and justice, for the people of Central America.

To whom can they turn for facts and educated analysis? The media have proved woefully inadequate to the task of unmasking advocacy groups that purport to speak for the people and the churches of Nicaragua and El Salvador, while many churches and their bureaucracies have rushed to embrace anyone who condemns U.S. policy in Central America or who apologizes for the revolutionary excesses of the Sandinistas.

No truly believing person can tolerate "death squads" or deny their existence, but if the *true* voice of the churches in Central America is not heard clearly and directly by U.S. churches we will forever be debating degrees of governmental legitimacy and government violence rather than questions of human dignity and human need. This is precisely what Moscow, Hanoi, Havana, and Managua are promoting through their fronts and other information outlets, and our mass media persist in giving them a free ride.

Should the churches lack the skills and resources to evaluate the deluge of "human rights" data they receive from and about embattled Central America, while continuing to treat official U.S. studies and statements with skepticism, then the Fourth Estate is saddled — by default — with the responsibility for sorting out the truth.

For God's sake, don't fail us!